woman died arid 67 persons were affected by leakage of chlorin(gas on 20-6-87. Out of these, 56 persons were sent back after first aid and six per ons were discharged from the hospital the same evening. The remaining persons w :re discharged from the hospital on 21-6-7. A Court of Inquiry has been instit ited to go into this incident. In the me. ntime(to avoid such incidents in future, a Standard Operative Procedure has been formulated and conveyed to all formatio is for thei r guidance.

New approach to Himalayas' Defence Po icv

2080. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIR-LA: Will the Minis* r of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govei nment have considered the question of ; new integrated approach to the Hima »y is' defence policy to deferfd country's security, in view of the changing military sit> a'ion in the Himalayas since the cighti. s, increasing defence collaboration betweer Pakistan and China, extending it to the nuclear field and increased threats to comtry's security on the Indo-China border: * id

(b) if so, what ai *t* the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT Ol DEFENCE PRO-DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHTV-RAJ PATIL): (a) ; rid (b) The country's defence plans take i it0 account the security environment a"d 'he emerging threat.

In the interest of security it would not be desirable to disclose details.

Loss of revenue diw to delay in disposal of seized goods by customs authorities

2081. SHRI KRTSHNA KUMAR BIR-LA: Will the Minis er of FINANCE be please'd to state:

(a) what on an average is the estimated annual loss of revenue suffered by the Government becaus of delay in the disposal of goods seiz id/confiscated by the customs authorities; and

(b) whether Government have reviewed the existing procedure/mode of 'disposal of the seized/confiscated goods by the customs authorities particularly in the case of goods which are prone to rapid decay to avoid or to minimise the losses, if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The average annual loss suffered due to theft, damage and deterioration etc. for the last three ifinancial years was about Rs. 28 lakhs as against the total stock of seized goods of Rs. 260 crores as on 1-4-1986.

(b) The confiscated goods become ripe for disposal after completion of appeal, revision proceedings etc. . The procedure and mode °f disposal of seized/confiscated goods have been reviewed from time to time and instructions have been issued for expediting the disposal of seized/confiscated goods Modes [channels of disposal were increased in 1985. In 1984, goods were divided into four categories to expedite disposal of goods susceptible to deterioration or rapid obsolescence. In 1985, section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962, relating to seizures was amended to enable immediate disposal of seized goods specified by the Government by notification by filing an application before a magistrate.

Investment schemes for NRl

2082. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIR-LA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual re-mittance by the common rural and semi-urban NRTs like Masons Carpenter! Electricians, Nurses etc.

(b) what are the channels if any. provided by the Government for viable investments of their foreign exchange earrings on their return to the country to settle down in their villages|home towns; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above is in the negative, whether Government have